Report on Airport Transport Council by FICCI

621. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen FICCI Report on 'Round Table on Air Transport' at Bombay on 5th February, 1992 and the statements of IAAI regarding absence of effective coordination due to several agencies being in charge of Airports ;

(b) if so, what corrective steps are proposed ;

(c) whether National Airport Safety Board created earlier has been disbanded and if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether ATC system at Delhi and Bombay has already been delayed for over 6 years and the reasons for not extending this system to other airports ; and

(e) what other suggestions were received at the Round Table from Consumer Groups and what action is proposed thereon item-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a), (b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) Government had not set up any National Airport Safety Board.

(d) Global Tenders for the project were invited in 1991. Contract is likely to be awarded by September, 1992. Modernisation of ATC is a capital intensive project. Such projects can be taken up at other airports only in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds.

Concessions for Foreign Tourists in Air Tickets

622. SHRI THENDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the gross income of Civil Aviation from foreign tourist for the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 ; and

(b) what new steps have been taken to attract foreign tourists through air ticket concessions as well other benefits in Air travel during their holiday visits ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The earnings of the Civil Aviation sector from sale of air tickets to foreign tourists are not compiled separately. The total foreign exchange earnings of Air India, Indian Airlines and Vayudoot during the year 1990-91 were Rs. 379.86 crores, Rs. 289.35 crores and Rs. 51.21 crores respectively. The corresponding figures for 1991-92 are yet to be compiled.

(b) India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Air India and Indian Airlines have worked out concessional tourist packages, offering discount in air fares and hotel charges for foreign tourists during April—September, 1992.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds in Air India

623. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has given any assurance to widows of deceased employees in Bombay High Court regarding employment on compassionate grounds ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether this assurance has been fully implemented ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) Mrs. Kotian and five other widows filed a writ petition in the Bombay High Court claiming, *inter alia*, jobs on compassionate ground on out of turn basis. Air India has given assurance to provide employment to the petitioners within three months.